

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN WALLACE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a remarkable citizen, Mrs. Lillian Wallace, for her continued dedication and service to the people of Nevada. Lillian is being honored on the occasion of her 90th birthday. She was born on June 13, 1911, in New Haven, Connecticut.

Lillian and her late husband Julian founded Seniors United in 1982 in Las Vegas. The purpose of Seniors United is to educate the senior population about the importance of becoming politically active, knowledgeable, and involved. Under Lillian's leadership, this organization has prospered.

Over the years, Lillian has received numerous community awards and has been actively involved with the Retired Seniors Volunteer Programs, the Jewish Federation, City of Hope, Mobilehome Owners League of Nevada, American Cancer Foundation and the American Heart Association.

Lillian has devoted her entire life to seeking and finding ways of assisting those who need help. She serves as a true model of a woman who is dedicated to serving her community.

CONGRESSIONAL UNDERFUNDING
OF IDEA HURTS LOCAL SCHOOLS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, when the House considered President Bush's education reform bill last month the rule imposed by the Majority for consideration of that legislation did not permit amendments to be offered to address the urgent need for increased education funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). As a result, local school districts across our nation will continue to be forced to cut important local programs.

Mr. Speaker, as recently as the early 1970's, it was documented that some two million children were receiving no education whatsoever, many because of physical or learning disabilities. In response to this terrible injustice, Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975. Later renamed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the law guarantees equal educational opportunities for all children. As a result of this legislation, some six million children with disabilities between the ages of three and twenty-one are receiving an education today—children who probably would not have that opportunity without this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Congress pledged itself to fund IDEA at a level providing local schools with 40% of the additional funds required to

educate children with special needs. In the 4 years since Congress established this goal, we have failed to appropriate the necessary funds for IDEA. By continuously under-funding IDEA, we are placing unnecessary burdens on local school budgets. It is an outrage that should have been rectified during debate and consideration of the President's education reform bill.

Mr. Speaker, underfunding of IDEA has led to a competition between special education and regular education in virtually every school district in our nation, because local and federal funding available is simply too small to meet the education requirements. In order to fund both special and regular education to the best of their ability, school districts have had to cut critical services from their budgets.

Mr. Speaker, the Belmont-Redwood Shores School district, which is located in my congressional district, provides us with an excellent example of the burden which the Congress' failure to fully fund IDEA places on local school districts. The Board of Trustees of the Belmont-Redwood Shores Elementary School District recently met to discuss whether they should give teachers a much needed cost of living raise or cut programs and personnel from elementary schools in the district. The programs and personnel considered for elimination include the elementary school music program, one assistant principal, two custodians, as well as an English as a Second Language teacher. The board also considered cutting a counseling program, cutting back on technology equipment, or not making necessary repairs to audio/visual equipment. Mr. Speaker, these unfortunate and unnecessary budget cuts could have been easily avoided if Congress had simply met its commitment to fully fund IDEA.

Providing quality education for all students, including those with disabilities, requires federal assistance to aid states and school districts provide these necessary services. Lack of funding leads school administrators to make decisions that are not in the best interests of students, but decisions dictated by budget considerations. Congress' broken pledge to fully fund IDEA has made schools seek to reduce the number of students classified as special needs or to restrict the services available to all students. The lack of sufficient funding to meet the needs of students with disabilities also places considerable strain on the entire school budget as administrators are forced to increase tax revenue or cut other critical programs in order to provide IDEA services.

Mr. Speaker, Congress must follow through on its pledge to support fully special education. I regret the Majority leadership's decision to make local school districts choose between educating children with special needs and eliminating other important school services. The needs of children with disabilities should never be pitted against other important educational needs of our nation's children. I urge my colleagues to join me allowing a complete debate and a vote on the full funding of IDEA.

INDIA PURSUES MISSILE DEFENSE
IN IS DRIVE FOR HEGEMONY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on June 6, the French news agency, Agence France Presse, reported that Russia offered to provide an anti-missile system to India, which Indian "defense expert" Uday Bhaksur called a "desirable development." This offer comes from the same Russian government that has told us that we cannot build a missile defense system because of the ABM treaty. It is ironic that Russia is vigorously opposing our missile defense efforts while providing an anti-missile system to a country that has a longstanding tradition of opposing America on a variety of issues and in a variety of foreign policy forum.

For example, India, a country which supported the former Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, recently voted with China to table a U.S. resolution at the United Nations against Chinese human-rights violations. India later voted to remove America from the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In fact, India votes against the United States at the U.N. more often than any country except Cuba. We should not forget that in May 1999, the Indian Express reported that Defense Minister George Fernandes convened and led a meeting with the Ambassadors from Red China, Cuba, Russia, Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Libya. According to this article, the aim of this meeting was to set up a security alliance "to stop the United States."

According to the Council of Khalistan, India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since June 1984 when it attacked the Golden temple, the Sikh religion's holiest shrine. According to a recent report from the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted to holding over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners without charge or trial. Just recently, five Indian troops were overwhelmed when they were trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes in Kashmir to set Sikhs and Muslims against each other. Both Sikh and Muslim residents of the village came out to stop the troops from burning down the houses and the Gurdwara. Two reports accuse the Indian government of killing 35 Sikhs in Chithi Singhpora in March 2000. By some calculations, India has also killed more than 75,000 Muslims in Kashmir. Other reports indicate that the Indian government has killed tens of thousands of Dalit "untouchables," Assamese, Tamils, Manipuris, and other minorities.

Since Christmas 1998, India has pursued a policy of terror against Christians. A missionary named Graham Staines, who was running a program to help treat leprosy, was burned to death in his jeep, along with his two sons, ages eight to ten, while the killers surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. This wave of terror has been characterized by church burnings,

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the murder of priests, the rape of nuns (supporters of the RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP described these murders as "patriotic"), attacks on prayer halls, and attacks on Christian schools. Reports indicate that over 200,000 Christians have been killed by the Indian government since 1947.

Mr. Speaker, America should not support this military provocation and human-rights abuse. We should stop all our aid to India until the human rights violations have ceased. We should also support the fundamental right of all peoples to self-determination. Whether it is the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Kashmiris in Indian-occupied Kashmir, or the people of Nagalim, all peoples and all nations should have the right to govern themselves. States which rule through the force of violence are destined to collapse. In the case of India, it is better that this happens peacefully like the Soviet breakup. We do not want another Yugoslavia in South Asia. And when all the people and nations of South Asia have achieved freedom, our help will bring us new allies in that troubled region.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Agence France Presse article into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Agence France Presse, June 6, 2001]

INDIAN EXPERT WELCOMES RUSSIA'S ANTI-MISSILE OFFER

NEW DELHI, June 6 (AFP).—Russia's offer to develop a national missile defence system for India is a "desirable development", an Indian defence expert said Wednesday.

"India should definitely says, 'We would like more details' It is a very desirable development," Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis deputy director Uday Bhaskar told AFP.

"This gives a sense of the direction that Indo-Russian strategic cooperation is likely to take," he added.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, who is holding talks with Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh in Moscow, unexpectedly announced Wednesday that Russia would shortly make a full proposal on the system. Indian defence ministry officials in New Delhi declined to comment.

"The political intent now to pursue defence or even missile defences of deterrence is now becoming more palpable and evident," Bhaskar said.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage visited India last month to talk to leaders about the U.S. plan to build a missile defence shield, which India has partially supported.

Moscow has traditionally enjoyed warm ties with India, which is currently engaged in a nuclear arms race with arch-rival Pakistan.

However, Russia has expressed concern about India's initial warm response to the U.S. missile defense shield.

Bhaskar said India was correct to hold discussions with other world powers on the issue. "If India is talking to the Americans, then they should also talk to the others," Bhaskar said. Klebanov also said India and Russia would cooperate on the development "of the latest type of submarine". The two sides also agreed to jointly develop an II-214 military cargo plane.

CHARITABLE GIVING IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 13, 2001

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of the House two articles relating to involvement in charitable giving by South Carolinians. The first article, from the May/June 2001 issue of Columbia Metropolitan Magazine, is entitled, 'Gracious Giving—South Carolina is High on the 'Generosity Index'.' This article focuses on the results of a recently published national survey by the National Center for Charitable Statistics, of the Urban Institute, which found that South Carolina is ranked 37th nationally in adjusted gross income, yet, it is "10th among all states in generosity to charitable organizations." The article contains a photograph, which was taken of Reverend Brad Smith and members of the congregation of Spring Valley Presbyterian Church, in Columbia, South Carolina, as donations were being collected, at the doors of the Church, for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Reverend Smith is the founder of the Souper Bowl of Caring, which raised \$4 million through 15,000 congregations on Super Bowl Sunday, this year. The second article, which I am incorporating in my remarks, is from the Winter 1998–99 issue of Sandlapper Magazine, and it is entitled, "From One Small Seed—A Super Bowl Sunday Charity Started by Columbia Youth Quickly Went National." This article provides an interesting account of the development of the Souper Bowl of Caring, from the initial effort in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1990, through its growth to all fifty States, as well as Puerto Rico and Canada, today. During the past eleven years, the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised \$14 million for the benefit of needy persons.

Mr. Speaker, as the Congress and the Bush Administration address initiatives concerning the efforts of religious groups to improve the lives of those who are in need, I believe that the following articles should serve to inspire each of us. At this point, I am pleased to include the previously referenced articles for the attention of the house.

[From Columbia Metropolitan Magazine, May/June 2001]

GRACIOUS GIVING—SOUTH CAROLINA IS HIGH ON THE "GENEROSITY INDEX"

(By Reba Hull Campbell)

South Carolinians are a generous lot, according to a national study that compares charitable giving by individuals in all 50 states. The Urban Institute's National Center for Charitable Statistics ranks South Carolina 10th among all states in comparing charitable giving to adjusted gross income.

The Institute's "Generosity Index" puts South Carolina in the top 10 most giving states, along with fellow Bible Belt states of Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama. Others in the top 10 include Utah, Oklahoma, South Dakota and North Dakota. Northeastern states of New Jersey, New Hampshire and Massachusetts fell at the bottom of the list.

According to the study, South Carolina falls 37th nationally in adjusted average gross income, but ranks 10th among all states in generosity to charitable organizations. The study was based on each state's

average adjusted gross income compared to average itemized charitable deductions.

The average charitable contribution by South Carolinians is \$3,469. That's compared to Mississippi ranked 49th in adjusted gross income, at \$4,070 and Massachusetts, ranked number four in income, with just \$2,645 in average contributions. In a state as small, rural and, in many areas, poor, as South Carolina, it's logical to pose the question of why its citizens have such a high giving average when they have less to give than individuals in many wealthier states.

As reflected in its previous studies on charitable giving, the Urban Institute says income level doesn't necessarily parallel charitable giving. Leaders in several Midlands are non-profit organizations agree, saying that while good economic times do encourage increased giving, South Carolinians have consistently shown their inclination to be cognizant of the needs of others and support charitable giving through religious and human service organizations. The Urban Institute found that over half the funds raised for the more than 2,000 registered charitable groups in South Carolina go to health and human service or religious organizations, reflecting South Carolina citizens' willingness to help their neighbors in need.

The survey found that Bible Belt states, plus Utah, were the most generous in their giving habits. These states are home to strong populations of evangelical Christians and Mormons, both of whom tend to tithe at higher levels. Northern states, which rank lower on the giving scale, are home to more Catholics, who Urban Institute experts say tend to give at lower levels.

Strong religious roots in South Carolina definitely influence giving habits, says Mac Bennett, executive director of the Central Carolina Community Foundation. "We are part of the Bible Belt and a significant amount of the giving is to religious organizations. Also, I think religious influences teach stewardship and a sensitivity to those with special needs that are not met by government."

Erin Hardwick, executive director of the South Carolina Association of Non-profit Organizations, agrees. "A correlation exists between involvement in religious organizations and the level of giving. Of all charitable contributions, more than 60 percent go to religious organizations."

A study by The Independent Sector, a national organization supporting research and excellence for non-profits, reinforces this strong relationship tying religious involvement to charitable giving. Nationally, the average donation to religious organizations increased in current dollars from \$686 in 1995 to \$1,002 in 1998.

Mac says the fact that South Carolina falls high on the "generosity index" is not a surprise. "I think philanthropy in our state is founded on this simple sense of responsibility to help other people, whether it's volunteering, sharing a meal or donating financial resources. There is a concern for human kind—philo, the Latin root, translates to "for the love of man."

Joan Fail, executive director of Communities in Schools in Columbia, agrees and makes similar observations about local giving trends from her experiences at CIS and previously with the Nurturing Center. "I've seen very strong support from individual giving in the 11 years I've been in the non-profit sector. Whether it's a good economy or bad, South Carolinians are just giving people."

Erin believes South Carolina's recent strong charitable giving record can be attributed to two factors—a strong economy and the fact that people give to causes close to their communities and families.

"A strong economy, including a decline in unemployment, leads to increased household